Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

Insurers get the Geoproof

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A web-based service from the Met Office is set to save insurance companies time and money in processing claims - and will help them save in payouts.

GeoProof, a tool already used by five top household insurers, is now being offered online. It's been specifically designed to support insurers by delivering meteorological data for quick and efficient claims processing, enabling busy claims handlers to give customers instant answers on the validity of weather-related claims.

GeoProof maps weather data collected from over 120 sites around the UK onto UK postcodes - organised into around 650 postcode groups based on the 3,000 UK postcode sectors. It allows insurers to assess validity of a weather-related claim.

The data can be accessed easily online and once an account has been set up, any number of users can be added. Users simply log in, enter a postcode and date of query and the system pulls up five days worth of data, two days either side of the key date. Data available for each postcode group includes:

- maximum and minimum temperature
- maximum mean wind speed
- maximum gust speed
- rainfall total 0000-1200 GMT
- rainfall total 1200-2400 GMT

Says Karen Dutton, Consultancy Business Manager at the Met Office: "It's an incredibly easy system to access and the service can save money by making the claims process much quicker. We expect it will make a real difference because it allows smaller insurance firms, who are more likely to have access to the web, to only pay for what they use through a flexible payment system."

Subscribers to GeoProof receive helpline support that also provides access to the latest information.

The Met Office also enables insurers to be one step ahead of both their customers and the competition. It can supply forecasts of severe weather that may lead to high claim levels, allowing insurers to take pre-emptive action - and for insurance companies prediction is a valuable tool as reinsuring can save on payouts.

To subscribe to GeoProof or for more information on other services, please call the Customer Centre (see number below) or visit www.metoffice.com/insurance.

Note:

Subscription is on a pay-per-view basis with a minimum charge of £1,000 per year (plus VAT) - £250 per quarter equates to around 120 views.

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